

Williams Barn  
East side of Mine Road, .7 mile north of  
White Horse Road (LR 15134)  
Devault Vicinity (Charlestown Township)  
Chester County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1216

HABS

PA

15-DEV

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1216

## WILLIAMS BARN

Location: Old Mine Road, north of County Road #15134, Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania (Reference: Map of Chester County [by County Commissioners/ 1956]).

Present Owner: Orville C. Dewey, Malvern R. D., Pa.

Brief Statement of Significance: This fine bank barn, dating from 1806, has been well preserved with little change in its original construction.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Llewellyn Davis sold tract 1794 to Joseph Williams, mason, who built the barn. His heirs sold it 1811 to Cornelius Conard, who had the barn when it was sold by the sheriff 1832 to Thomas Davis. The Davis family owned it until 1926, when Agnes H. Davis sold to Thomas W. Bergen; who sold 1945 to George H. McNeely, Jr.; who sold in 1952 to Orville C. Dewey, the present owner.
2. Date of erection: Date stone in east gable - J      M  
standing for Joseph and Mary Williams.      W  
AD  
1806
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown. Joseph Williams, the owner, whose name is in the date stone, was a mason himself.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: The barn was little changed from the original.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Barn has been little changed from the original.
6. Important old views and references:  
Views: None known.  
References: Sources of information to be found in the files of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa., under the heading: Charlestown Township.-Lands.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The barn is a fine structure with a four post forebay to the south. It is a bank barn, nearly sixty foot square. The stable doors have bars that pull out of the masonry walls as do those in the Lowndes Taylor barn, West Goshen Township.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

D. Supplemental Material

1. "Village Record", West Chester, Pa. - October 26, 1831:

"SHERIFF'S SALE. By virtue of a writ of Venditioni Exponas, to me directed, will be sold at Public Sale, on the premises, on Friday, the 28th of October inst. at one o'clock, P.M. a certain Messuage Plantation or Tract of Land, situate in the township of Charlestown, in the county of Chester; bounded by lands of Jesse Davis, Samuel Custard, Matthias Pennebecker and others, containing one hundred acres, more or less, with the appertenances. The land is of a good quality; thirty acres are meadow, and about eleven acres woodland. The improvements are a comfortable log house, stone barn, stone wagon house, spring-house, slaughter house and other out buildings, and a young orchard. Seized and taken in execution as the property of CORNELIUS CONARD, and to be sold by

OLIVER ALISON, Sheriff.  
Sheriff's Office, West Chester"

Prepared by Bart Anderson - August 1958  
Curator, Chester County Historical Society

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: There have been few changes in the barn since it was built.
2. Condition of Fabric: Very good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Barn has stable level, threshing floor, and mows; it is 58' by 60'.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Stone.
4. Chimneys: None.
5. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Seem original.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Seem original.
6. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Medium pitch, wood shingle roof.

b. Cornice, eaves: None.

c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plan: Regular plan of a Pennsylvania bank barn. - See Alfred L. Shoemaker: The Pennsylvania Barn. Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center, Lancaster, Pa. 1955.
2. Stairways: Original.
3. Flooring: Original.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Rough.
5. Doorways and doors: Seem original.
6. Trim: None.
7. Hardware: Original.
8. Lighting: None.
9. Heating: None.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Barn faces south, and is well set on a slope.
2. Enclosures: Regular farm.
3. Outbuildings: Fine spring house to the west; a late 19th century house.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Well kept farm.

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